

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

STR-04 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07

FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 TAR-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01

SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 SAM-01 /087 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9929

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS IMMEDIATE 1293

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, MTN, EEC

SUBJECT: MTN AGRICULTURAL IMPASSE

REF: EC BRUSSELS 9944

1. AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE EC COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER) WAS HELD ON THE MORNING OF NOV. 7. THE SOLE SUBJECT ON THE AGENDA WAS THE QUESTION OF AGRICULTURE IN THE MTNS. SOURCES IN BOTH THE BRITISH AND GERMAN PERMREPS BELIEVE THAT THE MEETING WAS CALLED AT THE INSTANCE OF THE COMMISSION. OUR BRITISH SOURCE BELIEVES THAT THE COMMISSION HOPED TO FORCE THE FRENCH EITHER TO RAISE THEIR COMPLAINT ABOUT THE COMMISSION'S EXCEEDING ITS MANDATE TO THE COUNCIL, OR TO ABANDON IT. AS THE MEETING TURNED OUT, HOWEVER, THE FRENCH NOT ONLY AVOIDED THIS BUT BOUGHT MORE TIME.

2. THE FRENCH PLOY WAS TO SAY THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THEIR "CONSTITUTIONAL" OBJECTIONS BUT THAT IN ALL COURTESY THEY SHOULD FIRST BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY

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TO DISCUSS THEIR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE OCT . 17

TEXT REGARDING AGRICULTURE IN THE MTNS. OTHER MEMBER STATE AMBASSADORS WERE UNWILLING TO ARGUE AGAINST THIS, AND THE COREPER MEETING ADJOURNED AND DISCUSSION PROCEEDED IN THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE DEPUTIES' MEETING (WHICH WAS IN PROGRESS). IN THIS MEETING, THE FRENCH DID NOT, AS A MATTER OF FACT, STATE THEIR AMENDMENTS BUT DID GO THROUGH THE OCT. 17 TEXT POINT BY POINT, EXPRESSING THEIR NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD IT.

3. THE COMMISSION ATTITUDE AS EXPRESSED BY HIJZEN WAS THAT THE TEXT WAS CERTAINLY NOT PERFECT; IN FACT, HIJZEN FELT HE COULD PROBABLY ACCEPT MANY OF THE CHANGES THE FRENCH MIGHT PROPOSE. HOWEVER, THE AMERICANS TOO PROBABLY DID NOT FIND THE TEXT PERFECT. THE ONLY WAY TO ARRIVE AT A SOLUTION WAS BY ACCEPTING THE TEXT WITH NO CHANGE.

4. THE COUNCIL SECRETARIAT IS NOW PREPARING A DOCUMENT INCORPORATING THE FRENCH STATEMENTS PLUS THE COMMISSION'S RESPONSES. THE NEXT MEETING ON THE SUBJECT WILL BE A SPECIAL COREPER SESSION AT 4 P.M. WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12. HOWEVER, IT WAS AGREED THAT IF THE FRENCH NEEDED MORE TIME, FOR EXAMPLE TO GET MORE INSTRUCTIONS FROM PARIS, THEY COULD SO INDICATE TO THE COMMISSION AND THE MEETING WILL BE POSTPONED ONE DAY TO THE REGULAR THURSDAY SESSION OF COREPER.
MORRIS

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